

**DEPARTMENT HEAD MONTHLY REPORTS TO THE TOWN MANAGER
JULY, 2007**

ASSESSOR: Submitted by David Utakis

July marked the beginning of another new fiscal year which brought on the annual rush to complete the review of building permits in order to sift out the new growth for FY2008. It will be mid to late September before we can tally up the growth and see if it comes close to the estimated \$435,000.

The estimate was made a little over a year ago, just when the market began to flatten. We knew the slowdown was coming, but we had no idea of what the severity would be. Due to a build-up of houses and condos for sale, construction was slowed drastically. New construction or major rehabilitation jobs are where the bulk our new growth numbers come from. Some builders virtually stopped in their tracks to wait for the supply of housing for sale to diminish, while others simply lowered their prices a little and keep plugging on cautiously.

According to a recent Banker & Tradesman publication, single family sales to date in Uxbridge this year are three less than this same time last year although their median price is nearly \$16,000 higher at \$317,000. The multiple listing service indicates that there are 126 single family homes available for sale today ranging in price from \$174,900 to \$1.4 million. Also available are 52 condos ranging in price from \$119,900 to \$389,900. There are 11 multi-family properties for sale. With so much to choose from, able and willing buyers who can get a loan can truly shop around.

Market conditions will cause our assessed values to change. Our FY2008 values will be set based on sales activity for 2006. Current valuations are based on market conditions that existed in 2005 which is when the market peaked. Uxbridge followed the statewide trend in 2006 with prices leveling off. Price reductions here have been quite moderate in comparison to many other areas. The huge inventory of houses for sale may cause further erosion of selling prices this year.

Because our assessed values are based on the previous calendar year's sales, the market may recover again before we've had a chance to adjust for diminished values. We adjust values yearly, to stay as close as we can to market conditions. A drop in valuation will cause a drop in new growth.

Just like all other town departments, we were stunned by the Bernat Mill fire. We immediately requested special legislation that would allow us to abate personal property accounts affected by the fire. The value of the mill buildings destroyed will also be abated. Nothing further can be done with regards to the abatements until the legislature has completed its response. We have joined with other departments and agencies to facilitate the needs of those who were so adversely affected by the blaze.

Our new GIS maps updated as of Jan 1, 2007 for use in FY2008 are finally here. I've been telling you about mapping delays for three or four months. We finally got the updates a week ago. Our conversion from GIS 9.1 to 9.2 awaited the arrival of programming which got here yesterday. Now that we have everything, the updates should be in place within two weeks.

The GIS web-site should be updated soon after the in-house updates are complete. The updated zoning section of the GIS map should be included. It is not an official zoning map as it is not approved by town meeting vote. We believe recent changes are accurately reflected on it.

Barbara Harris and Jennifer Hyland will be mailing out the annual applications required for senior citizen, veteran and blind exemptions within the next month or so. Those who are not yet on our mailing list should stop by the office for a form or call 508-278-8602. Although the deadline for submission of these forms is not until 90 days after the mailing of the final tax bills for the year (usually around March 30) it is suggested they be returned prior to the start of the holiday season.

The application deadline for Chapter 61A and 61B land remains as Oct. 1. These applications are not mailed out. They are available in the assessor office. The deadline for filing Chapter 61 forestry applications has been changed from Sept. 1 to Oct. 1.

I will continue to spend much of August and September out in the field doing data collection, analyzing the market conditions, and doing quality control checks on existing real estate data. Even though our next state re-certification of values does not have to be completed until FY2010, we must continue to update data on 5,800 parcels so that we will have seen all of the parcels prior to July 1, 2009. We will continue to compile a photographic inventory of all real estate.

During the annual Mass. Association of Assessing Officers (MAAO) seminar in June, I earned enough education credits for the renewal of my Mass. Accredited Assessor (MAA) designation. Appropriate paperwork was submitted and notification was received in July that my designation was extended for another three years. A minimum of 45 credits must be earned every three years to maintain the designation which is a job requirement here and in most communities.

BOARD OF HEALTH: Submitted by Denise Delannoy

The Board of Health office completed the following by e-mail, phone and walk-in:

Calls for service – 385	Request for copies – 19	Complaints investigated - 9
Animal complaints – 6	Phone calls – 270	Walk-ins – 115
Food inspections – 11	Food re-inspections – 5	

Meetings held: 2, July 12 and 19

Relevant actions: July 12, 2007, variance granted a variance of 8'1/2" from septic tank to foundation, adding addition, at 314 Hartford Ave. West. Joy Gareri, Dog Officer, came to speak with the Board regarding problems with loose/nuisance farm animals. Mr. Drexel came to speak to the Board re: project/variances he will need, 315 Hazel Street. Elaine Auger, 1199 Hathaway Lane, came in to speak to the Board re: variances she anticipates with a new addition. July 19, 2007, Susan A. Smith was unanimously voted in to serve as Board of Health, Chairman for another term. Tim Rice was unanimously voted in as Vice Chairman for this term. Cay Den Herder was unanimously voted in to serve as Board Secretary this term. Cay will take minutes should the department's secretary be unavailable. Susan A. Smith, Chairman, spent numerous hours at Bernat Mill and surrounding waterways due to the residual effects of a fire of this magnitude. She continues with on-site daily follow-up with Western Mass Environmental and stays in close touch with DEP re: water quality and remediation efforts, as well as with Con om. Emergency line: handled call re: possibly sick (now dead) squirrel, dead bird (not a variety that requires testing), several air quality concerns re: mill fire. Tim Rice continues checking on construction progress at Hannaford's Market and handling various complaints, that he receives. Cay Den Herder is working diligently on the Pay as You Throw Program.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT: Submitted by Nick Gazerro

Attended Board of Selectmen meeting on July 9th. Meet with Chief Ostroskey & Rob Cherrier about project on West St. Continuing meetings concerning Stanley Woolen Mill with Nick Deane, Craig Barnes, State Inspector and architect for building. Went to fire scene at 19 Depot St on 7-21-07, 7-22-07 and several times the following week. Meet with Matthew Allen, Compliance Officer for Massachusetts. Attended meeting on 7-30 concerning Bernat Mill.

July 2007 the number of permits issued and the fee collected is as follows:

Building Permits	33	Fee's Collected \$	6,823.00
Electric Permits	22	Fee's Collected \$	2,865.00
Plumbing Permits	15	Fee's Collected \$	1,550.00
Gas Permits	5	Fee's Collected \$	270.00
		Total Collected	\$11,508.00

Following are the Building Permits that were issued during the month of July 2007.

1 Additions	2 Remodel kitchen
5 Roofs	4 Above ground pool
2 Decks	2 Condo Units = 3466 sf
1 In Ground Pool	1 Basement (finish)
1 Single Family Home = 1,463 sf	1 Stove - Wood
1 Demo permit for fire scene	4 repair work
2 Garages	1 Trailer due to fire
3 Vinyl Siding	2 Window replacement

3 of these were Commercial; there were 6 Occupancy permits issued during July

CONSERVATION: Submitted by Rachel Landry

Permitting Activity:

One new application for work near or within wetlands was deliberated upon:

Uxbridge Dept. of Public Works - 434 Millville Road (Map 35, Parcel 1334) – NOI – DEP #312-870

Repair of an existing sewer easement. The proposed work is located within Bordering Land Subject to Flooding associated with Blackstone River, and within Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The Commission deemed that the project is not likely to result in degradation of wetland area, and in fact is necessary to remediate damage to wetland caused when the sewer easement blew out and deposited sand into a portion of the adjacent historic canal. Part of the proposed work involves removal of the accumulated sand. An Order of Conditions for the project was issued.

One new violation was discussed.

Harrington, Thomas & Patty -11 Buffum Road (Map 37, Parcel 1356) Viol. #1007 Unpermitted trenching and installation of point discharge (basement drainage) to intermittent stream; work is within inland bank and within 100-foot buffer zone of inland bank. Patty Harrington appeared before the Commission to explain the work. It was agreed that the trench work would be pulled back from the wetland and would discharge approximately 50 feet from the wetland, within a vegetated swale. The Commission required the Harringtons to file, at a minimum, a Request for Determination of Applicability for the work. The Commission anticipates reviewing the filing at its first meeting in August.

Completed deliberations on previously continued items:

Northern Development Group, LLC - 55 Glen Street (Map 36, Parcel 4255) – NOI – DEP #312-868 The Commission required completion of stabilization/landscaping on this project site before it would continue deliberations on proposed additional work consisting of accessory structures to the recently approved home construction. The Commission approved construction of a pool and patio proposed under this filing and issued an Order of Conditions for the work.

Deliberations continued into August:

Uxbridge Associates, LLC - 325 Mendon Road WAUCANTUCK (Map 20, Parcel 1749) Construction of 145 condominium units, associated grading, utilities, parking and stormwater management structures. Portions of the proposed work are within 200-foot Riverfront Area of West River, 100-foot buffer zone of Bordering Vegetated Wetland, 100-foot buffer zone of Inland Bank, and Bordering Land Subject to Flooding. The Commission has completed the bulk of deliberations for this project. The Commission is waiting for plan sets that include all agreed upon changes and additions.

B&B Associates - 144 Paine Street (Map 37, Parcels 2161 & 2182) – NOI – DEP# 312-866 Construction of a subdivision roadway (Wanda Way). Portions of the proposed work are within 100-foot buffer zone of Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The project as proposed will result in the creation of three lots served by a single cul-de-sac- roadway. The Commission was concerned with the configuration of the proposed lots. The configuration would create lots significantly constrained by wetland, necessitating construction of houses

unacceptably close to a unique shrub wetland area that provides critical habitat for rare, threatened and endangered wildlife species. The Commission requested that alternate plans be presented which would allow for construction of homes outside of 100-foot buffer zone of wetland. Various possible reconfigurations were discussed with the applicant's representative. A revised layout was presented that sufficiently addresses all concerns of the Commission as well as results in the creation of less infrastructure/paved area. However, some of the proposed changes will require approval of variances by the Planning Board. The hearing has been continued as the representative works with the Planning Board to arrive at a project acceptable to all Boards.

Open Space Management: On July 24th, the Conservation Commission and Board of Health were alerted that the most recent water testing of the swimming area located at the Pout Pond Conservation Area failed. Results were 270 CFU/100ml. Weekly testing of the swim area is conducted to ensure compliance with the State Regulations. The parameter tested is for E. coli with the maximum limit being 225 CFU/100ml (Colony Forming Units). The increased count resulted in the closure of the swim area for several days, but the Pout Pond Conservation Land remained open for hiking. Test results received on July 27th passed and were at levels typical of Pout Pond, a healthy <10 CFU/100ml. The swim area at Pout Pond was reopened for public use on July 28th. Pout Pond occasionally experiences these spikes in colony forming units. Several theories exist for these spikes. 1. Large concentrations of waterfowl mulling about the beach can result in an increase of e. coli levels. No flocks were observed at the beach or on the pond during this time. 2. Rain storms flush debris, nutrients, and pet waste from developed land into lakes and ponds, causing a spike in e. coli levels. No rainstorms occurred during the weekend previous to the spike. However, rainstorms are not likely to result in fluctuations of e. coli levels at Pout Pond. Pout Pond is a spring/groundwater fed pond with no streams draining into it, and an undeveloped forested buffer exists around the majority of the pond. 3. Heavy use by the public, use by infants in diapers. This is the most likely cause for spikes in e. coli levels at Pout Pond. Pout Pond is a relatively small body of water, and is sensitive to overuse by large crowds. 4. Faulty test results, contamination of sample.

Other:

Bernat Mill Fire - Mumford River runs under Bernat Mill and drains to Blackstone River. During and immediately after the fire, heated water and all manner of debris and unknown chemicals including petroleum products washed into the Mumford River. At one point, petroleum products suspected to be mineral oil caught fire on the surface of the Mumford River. A fish kill of approximately 150 fish of different age groups was reported. Immediate Response personnel from Massachusetts DEP and EPA were onsite during and after the fire to implement and coordinate river cleanup. Several lines of absorbent booms were placed at multiple areas along both the Mumford and Blackstone River, and were monitored and maintained constantly. Vacuum trucks were also deployed to remove distinct deposits of released materials. Erosion controls have been installed around the disaster site at the banks of the river. Removal of heavy debris has begun. Cleanup efforts continue into August. The Commission continues to monitor the situation and is likely to play a role going forward as state remediation crews complete their immediate response actions.

Lobisser Building Corporation, Aldrich Brook Estates (off Glendale Street). Status of Open Space parcel associated with approved Conservation Design Subdivision. Mr. Mark Allen of Allen Engineering, LLC presented on behalf of the proponent. The Planning Board had recently issued a special permit for the subdivision. The status of the area to be set aside as open space had not yet been decided. A lawsuit was brought against the Town by Mr. Joseph Cove, who took issue that the protection mechanism of the open space parcel had not been finalized before issuance of the special permit. Mr. Cove is seeking assurances that the open space parcel will remain in a natural state. The Commission has had little role in Planning Board deliberations regarding the configuration and disposition of the open space portion of the subdivision. When the Commission was eventually approached to accept the land, there was a need to study the parcel, and determine its value as conservation land, as well as the best mechanism for protection. Outright land acceptance is one of two options for protection of land. A conservation restriction can also be requested and held by the Commission. Several factors play into the best mechanism for protection. A site visit was set to walk the open space parcel. Deliberations continue into August.

COUNCIL ON AGING: Submitted by Marsha Petrillo

The Uxbridge Council on Aging and the Senior Citizens of Uxbridge extend their heartfelt thanks to the men and women of our fire department for protecting our Senior Center from the intense heat and embers emerging from the devastating fire on July 21st at the Bernat Mill Complex. As an expression of our thanks and appreciation we will host a luncheon to honor our fire fighters on Thursday, August 16th beginning at about 11:30 am. At this time we invite the Board of Selectmen, entire Emergency Management Team and the Town Manager and the community at large to join us to express our gratitude.

As you know, many of our senior citizens worked in the Mill. They have been recounting special stories and sharing memories of their work experiences throughout the week. Recently, Andy Levin stopped by to interview some of our seniors for a story to appear in next week's Tribune. This was good therapy for them. It is healing to reminisce and recount their personal work experiences. Because the mill helped to support and maintain the livelihood of so many of our senior citizens we are urging persons with pictures, mill memorabilia and special memories to attend our luncheon and share their stories. Former Fire Chief William Albin will tape the honorary luncheon for cable access so that those who are unable to offer up their thanks in person can also feel part of the luncheon ceremony. Please let us know if you will attend so that we can order a meal for you; we are serving a turkey dinner and a special cake. Reservations must be made 48 hours in advance by calling Carrie at 508-278-7609.

Van Grant: I am happy to report that the van grant application was submitted on July 13 to the Executive Office of Transportation and Public Works. It is my understanding that the grant awards will be announced in September or early October. I will report any news to you as soon as I hear.

Special Thanks: Every day 2,000 people turn 60 years old in the USA and that more than 6,000 American women turn 50 every day. Yet, while our senior population is growing, many of our local Senior Centers have been forced to level fund their budgets or cut back due to the growing deficit between local revenues and expenses. In light of this growing problem across the Commonwealth, I have some very good news to report. The Senate Ways and Means Committee recently concurred with the House regarding a 3% increase in Line Item #9110-9002 "Local Aide to Councils on Aging". Our sincere thanks go out to Senator Richard T. Moore and Representative Dr. Jennifer Callahan for their leadership and support of Councils on Aging across the Commonwealth. Please know we will put the increase to good use here in Uxbridge. The 3% increase means that our State Formula Grant will increase from \$6.30 per senior to \$6.50 per senior for FY 08. As many of you already know, our Senior Center uses its Formula Grant money to pay our escort drivers a small stipend to transport our senior citizens to and from medical appointments. Transportation is a serious issue for many of our seniors. Lacking public transportation and with only one part time taxi service in Uxbridge, many of our seniors are challenged to find safe and reliable rides to and from medical appointments. If you, or someone you know, is in need of transportation please contact us at 508-278-8622. We will be happy to assist you. If there is a conflict, we may be able to reschedule your appointment at a time that is convenient for you. Please call us as soon as you make your appointment. Our transportation services are in great demand and offered on a first come first served basis M-F during the hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Summer Wellness Programs offered during the month of July with Sandra Waite, Fitness Instructor:

Beginning Tuesday July 3rd, the Senior Center will offer Mat Pilates for Seniors and Friends from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Mat Yoga will begin on Thursday, July 5th from 3:15 pm to 4:15 pm. While our wellness programs are offered free of charge to senior citizens and their friends, we do request a voluntary donation of \$3.00 per class per person to help cover the costs for running these special programs.

Donation Reminder: If you would like to make a monetary donation to the Senior Center, we ask that you make all checks and money orders payable to: THE TOWN OF UXBRIDGE. Monetary donations, payable to the Town of Uxbridge, will be deposited weekly into our donations and gift account. Please know that your donations will be used to help fund educational programs, special events, and additional services offered only at the Senior Center. If you have any questions about how to make donations to the Uxbridge Senior Center please

do not hesitate to call me at 508-278-8622. We are grateful for your donations and appreciate your continued support.

Grocery Shopping: Attention Uxbridge Seniors: Do you need transportation to the grocery store? Did you know that we travel to Hannaford Market every Tuesday and Wednesday morning? Please contact our Transportation Coordinator, Joe Rondeau, @ 508-278-8622 to make your reservation on the van. Pickup begins at 8:30 am.

Important Notice: The Tuesday night NAMI Support Group will pause for the summer months of June, July and August. The group will resume meeting at the Senior Center on Tuesday, September 4, 2007 at 7:00 pm. Please call Connie or Jim at 278-9833 if you have any questions or need more information about this important support group. This group offers support to individuals who have loved ones diagnosed with mental illness. The Senior Club will take a summer break for the months of June, July and August and resume their meetings on Wednesday of September 12th at 1:30 pm. The Senior Club meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays each month.

July 2007 Upcoming Events:

Pitch Party Every Monday Night: July 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30. Pitch begins @ 6:30 PM ~ \$2 donation. We are always looking for new participants. We have a big comfortable Center. Just right for playing cards together. Stop by and check us out. We offer 1st, 2nd, 3rd prizes, Door Prizes, and fun, fun, fun! Coffee and complimentary refreshments served each week.

Tuesday Afternoons 1:30 – 4:00 PM: Come join us for an afternoon of card playing every Tuesday at the Uxbridge Senior Center. Contact Rita @ 278-2824 for more information about this card group. All are welcome!

Sun., July 1: The UNNC will meet at 7:00 pm. Call Julie Blehyl, UNNC President @ 278-9994 for more information about this fun group.

Tues., July 3: Special Patriotic musical luncheon with Shari Dunlap's students. We will have door prizes and a raffle basket. Call Carrie, 48 hours in advance, at 508-278-7609 to reserve your meal.

Thurs., July 5: SHINE Representative Mary Rice will be on hand from 9:00 am to 11:30 am to answer your medical and insurance questions. Please call Mary at 508-278-8638 to schedule an appointment to discuss Prescription Advantage, MassHealth Buy-In, Evercare, SCO, Fallon and Medicare Part D.

Thurs., July 5: Super Wal-Mart Shopping –We have maps of the Wal-Mart floor plan to help you find your way through this super store! Each department is listed including the grocery store. Pickup begins @ 8:30 AM – You must call each month to reserve your seat to Wal-Mart. Sorry, we cannot save your seat from month to month. Please call if you can't make it so the next person can jump aboard from our waiting list. Thank you!

Tues., July 10: COA Board Meeting @ 5:00 PM – Welcome new members.

Weds., July 11: Lunch n Learn @ 11:30 am featuring Robin Thorpe, RN Community Liaison and Coleen Tarantino, Director of Rehab Services from Lydia Taft House. Robin & Coleen will discuss a variety of safety tips and guidelines for a safe and healthy summer. A question and answer session will follow their discussion. Please join us for this informative talk. Bring a friend! Call Carrie @ 278-7609 to make your reservation today.

Weds., July 11: 6:30 PM - Uxbridge Taxpayer's Meeting @ Senior Center

Thurs. July 12: Tri Valley Special Picnic Lunch at Riverbend Farm. Make your reservations early. Call Carrie at 508-278-7609

Weds., July 25: 1-2:30 PM Fallon Rep Gail Trubow will be on board to answer your personal insurance questions. Please call the Center to sign up. First Come - First Served.

Sat., July 28: SERVE New England: Distribution begins @ 10:00 AM Call 1-888-742-7363 or go online to www.serve-newengland.org to learn how you can save up to 50% and more on high-quality, fresh foods.

Reminder: Transportation to and from medical appointments is available at the Senior Center. Call ahead, as soon as you book your next appointment. It is never too early to book an appointment. If you are willing, we will gladly reschedule your appointment if there is a conflict. Call us at 508-278-8622 to make your medical appointment reservation.

July Menu: We invite you to come and join us for lunch beginning at 12 noon daily. Let us know how you like our new meal selections. Please call Carrie Walden, Nutrition Site Manager, 48 hours in advance to reserve your meal. Bill can be reached @ 508-278-7609. \$2 Donation per meal - \$3.50 ages 59 and under. The menu includes milk and margarine. Menus are subject to change. Reservations must be made 48 hours in advance.

7/2	Salmon Boat	7/3	Meatloaf	7/4	Center Closed
7/5	Roast Turkey	7/6	Chicken Florentine	7/9	Beef & Bean Chili
7/10	Pot Roast Stew	7/11	Buttermilk chicken	7/12	Chicken Pepper Wrap
7/13	Stuffed Peppers	7/16	Potato Crunch Fish	7/17	BBQ Chicken
7/18	Garden Swiss Steak	7/19	Cheese Lasagna	7/20	Roasted Chicken
7/23	Swedish Meatballs	7/24	Beef Marsala	7/25	Baked Chicken
7/26	Italian Sausage	7/27	Mac n cheese	7/30	Chicken/Potato Salad
7/31	Roast Turkey				

Outreach Report: Our Outreach Coordinator works 15 hours each week and is available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00am – 3:00 pm and Thursdays from 8:00 am to 11:00 am.

Office Visits	18	Home Visits	0
Nursing Home Visits	5	Wakes & Funerals	4
SMOC Recerts & New Applications	3	Telephone calls in & out	107
Medical Appointment	2	Cards sent	10
SHINE / Office Visits	12	SHINE Meeting	1

Monthly Stastical Data: The following statistics represent the number of individuals using our transportation services, meals on wheels, luncheon attendance and attendance at our various programs for the month:

Van Transportation	290	Medical Transportation	66
Tai Chi	21	Card Games/Pitch	130
Meals on Wheels Delivered	1,650	Weekend meals delivered	32
Congregate Meals Served	431	Total Meals Served	2113
Cash Turnovers	\$510.50	Phone calls in & out	600+
Guestbook	550+	Super WalMart	14
Cards sent to elders	19	River Bend Picnic Luncheon	26
Pilates, Line Dancing, Cardio & Yoga	12	Hannaford	40
Lunch attendance	190+	CVS	21
Bank/Other	22	Fourth of July musical luncheon	30
Computer Classes	8	Robin Thorpe of Lydia Taft Lunch n Learn	26

DPW: Submitted by Larry Bombara

WATER

1. The Benat Mill fire strained the water system to its limit utilizing over 2 million gallons of water for the firefighting effort. The Bernat well field was taken off line temporarily and an outdoor water ban implemented in order to recharge groundwater and avoid any potential water quality issues. Over 2 million gallons of water was purchased from Whitinsville Water Co. On July 30th, the ban was lifted.
2. Water quality has improved in the North end of the distribution system and is being monitored on a regular basis.

WASTEWATER

1. Excavation has begun on the lime silo storage tank with construction continuing throughout the summer.
2. An infrared roof survey was conducted to investigate the condition of the 28 year old roofing systems at the waste water facility. The results indicate that 80% of the roofs need immediate attention and will be discussed at next months Commissioners meeting.
3. Conservation Commission has issued an order of conditions for the repair of the Susan Parkway trunk line easement and work will begin in the very near future.

HIGHWAY

1. Beta Engineering is progressing on the 25% design phase of the Route 122 sidewalk / roadway rehabilitation project. An informational night is planned for late fall.
2. The canal collapse on Harford Avenue at the Crown and Eagle apartments is being investigated with the assistance of the MHD.
3. Punch list items are expected to be completed regarding the reconstruction of Elm, Pleasant and Rivulet Streets by August 31st.

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Submitted by Megan DiPrete

Summary: In addition to coming on board with the Town and beginning to become acquainted with the pending projects within the land use and economic development departments, I spoke with or met with numerous members of the public concerning questions on planning and zoning issues, and efforts to assist in business recovery efforts of those affected by the Bernat Mill fire.

Interaction with staff in the Building, Health and Conservation offices has been frequent and encouraging. The team is knowledgeable and capable, and I am looking forward to relocating to the upstairs office area so that we can more effectively coordinate our efforts.

I have contacted and met with several local development contacts in order to ensure that agenda items, important projects, and file materials are uninterrupted by the staff changes.

And, along with Jenn Cederberg, I reviewed applicants for the Administrative position in the Planning office, and conducted interviews. I certainly look forward to having a full staff complement.

Projects/Meetings:

Bernat Mill. On Monday, July 30, 2007 there was a meeting of various local, state and federal government officials regarding the Bernat Mill fire. The purpose of the meeting was to assess what had occurred in the preceding week since the 7/21 fire, determine what current needs are, and strategize for best meeting those needs. Additional meetings with various officials, and with Chamber of Commerce and Business Development staff continue. And, of course, my office serves as a local government point of contact for people with questions about resources available, and (in conjunction with the Building Inspections department) how best to facilitate business relocation efforts.

North property: I met with surveyor Normand Gamache of Guerriere and Halnon, who represents the property owner. I understand that there is pending litigation regarding this project. However, it is useful to note that any

provision for earth removal would typically include agreement as to amount to be excavated, finish grading, finish treatment, and a number of other items. I remain available to assist in any reviews and discussions.

Waucantuck Mill (Mill on West River Pond project): I met briefly with developer Rob Joseph and his engineering representative Mark Anderson to introduce myself to them in my capacity with the Town.

Stanley Woolen Mill: I met with developer Nick Deane to review his overall status, and hopes for development. Also discussed, generally, was the permitting process involved for large projects, and how phasing such projects could be coordinated.

43D Grant: ZBL reviews, Expedited Permitting, Permit Tracking – I have reviewed the consultants very preliminary materials which will be reviewed in greater detail with the Planning and Zoning Boards in August. Permitting software proposals continue to be evaluated for consideration by the Town manager

Citizen Inquiry/guidance: In addition to inquiries relative to the Bernat Mill, my first week with the town included more than a dozen meetings with “walk-in” customers seeking guidance on building, zoning or conservation issues.

Generally: I am interacting with multiple internal and external customers. I have not yet met with the Uxbridge Business Association, but I was satisfied with initial interactions with the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce

Planning/Zoning Matters: The Planning Board held two regular meetings, on July 11 and July 25. The Zoning Board met on Wednesday, July 18, and on August 1, 2007. At their meeting on 8/1/07, the ZBA reorganized as follows: Chairman Mark Wickstrom, Vice Chair Tom Bentley, and Dr. Charles Lutton.

Some projects recently or currently before the boards include:

- A&J Realty Holding Special Permit: A&J will be appearing before the ZBA at their 7/18/07 meeting and the Special Permit discussion on this matter has been continued to the Planning Board’s 8/08/07 meeting.
- CVS Massachusetts LLC Special Permit: The Special Permit is required for the store to be open twenty-four hours. The Public Hearing on this matter was continued from 6/13/07 to 7/11/07.
- Down East Definitive Plan Modification: The Board opened the Public Hearing on 6/13/07 and, owing to litigation between the applicant and the Board of Health, continued the Public Hearing to 7/25/07.
- Savers Bank: Continued to work with DPW Superintendent, Savers Bank and Town traffic consultants on traffic issues at the intersection of Routes 16 and 122. At the Planning Board’s 6/27/07 meeting, the Board took a vote to hold a joint meeting with the Public Safety Commission on 7/11/07 to discuss this matter.
- Aldrich Brook Estates is a Conservation Design Definitive Subdivision Plan that is currently involved in litigation. I have met with the Town Manager and Conservation Commission administrator to become familiar with the issues, and will continue to work to resolve them.
- Spaulding Way Definitive Subdivision Plan: Proposed one lot subdivision. The applicant asked for their Plan to be withdrawn without prejudice at the Board’s 6/27/07 meeting. The vote was unanimous to grant the applicant’s request.
- Wanda Way Definitive Subdivision Plan: Proposed two lot subdivision at the intersection of Paine and Buffum. Although Conservation Agent, Rachel Landry, attended the Board’s 06/27/07 meeting for this discussion, the applicant, owing to one member’s absence, elected to continue the Public Hearing to 7/11/07, and again to 8/8/07

It has been a pleasure to join the municipal team, and I am looking forward to working with all of the departments. We will continue to work toward unified monthly reporting so increased clarity and comprehensiveness.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Submitted by Scott Freitas

It should come as no surprise but the first month of the fiscal year 2008 was a very busy month for the department. During this time dispatch received, responded to and/or dispatched 1081 calls for service to the Police, Fire or EMS. That is 69 more calls than July of last year and is 2 calls fewer than last month. In the first 7 months of this year we have responded to 7,183 calls. This surpasses the 2006 totals to date by 8.8%. 11.47% of July's calls were Fire/EMS related, which usually also required a police response and 88.53% were strictly police related.

91 Motor vehicle citations were issued that included 115 separate violations. 13 Motor Vehicle Accidents were investigated with 4 injuries out of 24 occupants. This is 7 collisions less than June of 2007 and based on an exceptionally accident free month totals for the year 2007 compared to 2006 collisions are up only 2. The increase was much higher at the end of last month. The department will continue to redeploying some of our enforcement activities when available to attempt to reduce the numbers. In the first 7 months of 2007 approximately 27 percent of the drivers in collisions were age 21 or under. That number is not larger than the 36 to 60 age group dynamic in 2007, but is higher percentage wise when compared to 2006. 41% of drivers in collisions were in the age group age 36 – 60. In 2006 only 16% of operators were under 21. That is not an overall condemnation of the driving skills of people 21 and under because increased numbers of young drivers and other factors will all impact the statistic. However it does pose a question that needs further evaluation based on data compiled during this remainder of this year. Regardless of age, all operators of motor vehicles need to buckle up, obey the speed limit, and drive courteously.

51 arrests or applications for criminal complaints were made this month. Six were for domestic violence situations. Five were for Drunk Driving. As opposed to last month, Saturday and Thursday were the days in which the most arrests occurred, with Monday being a close second. The majority of arrests were of people in the age groups 25-34 and 34 to 54. There were 4 arrests for persons age 11-17. Overall, there were 13 more arrests than last July. Overall this year arrests are up 15% over last year. 37.8% of all arrests this month involved some use of alcohol. The department once again investigated some serious incidents this past month including but not limited to the devastating fire at the Burnat Mill Complex. We are still working with State Police Investigators assigned to the State Fire Marshall's Office. Private police details are currently being filled and will do so for at least a few more weeks. People are reminded that in spite of the curiosity factor, trespassing on the R.R. tracks is against the law. Our overall clearance rate for major crime is above both the New England States and National average for departments our size.

Although not as frequent, relative to road construction, some traffic patterns will once again become a difficult issue and the traffic patterns are apt to change quickly due to the needs of new projects on a daily basis. A meeting was held on July 31, 2007 relative to closing and then restricting traffic on E. Hartford Avenue at Whittin Street on or about August 7, 2007.

The department was able to have its fiscal year budget for 2008 passed with out the reduction in force that would have been devastating to this Department. All dispatchers have been retained for this upcoming fiscal year. In July the department started training all of the police officers in 911 call taking procedures as a precaution with the sincere hope that reductions in staff will not occur next year. The training of these officers will be done with grant money provided by the Statewide Emergency Telecommunications Board. It had been the intention of the Department to use this grant to train our current dispatchers in "Emergency Medical Dispatching," but that has had to take a back seat to planning during our town's fiscal crisis.

Training: Sgt. McCrohan, Sgt Wilson, Officers Bergeron, Brown, Deveau, DiVitto, Dwight, Kevin MacDonald, Prior and Stuczynski attended e-911 training. More are scheduled in August. Officers Kevin MacDonald and Steven Prior attended Smith and Wesson Firearms instructor training and have been recertified for 3 years. Other training sessions will be attended during the upcoming months by many officers subject to available funding.

Emergency Management: Sgt. Emerick's continued hard work relative to Emergency Management planning and NIMS compliance training and the efforts of the trained personnel came proved their worth at the Mill Fire. More planning and training is scheduled in future months including work with the school department on emergency response. Upgrades are still underway for the town's radio antennae system which should be completed soon we are only waiting for delivery of a few more items to complete the project.

In June, I had received the blessing of you, the Town Manager, as a candidate for an open seat on the Central Mass Regional Homeland Security Council. Appointments to that Council were made the week after the fire and I was chosen. It takes effect and takes effect in August 2007 upon the retirement of Oxford Police Chief Charles Noyes.

Grants: Grant requests are being formulated in a few areas related to law enforcement including but not limited to the Ocean State Community Foundation and the Task Force Grant.

Animal Control: The Animal Control officer responded to at least 60 complaints in the month of July. Joyce Gareri started work as a regionalized Animal Control Officer. We will be interviewing some applicants for the Per Diem Animal Control Officer positions but others may apply. This position(s) is to cover weekends and holidays. Anyone interested can contact the Uxbridge Police Department for application forms and a job description. This is a stipend position.

Events: The July Fireworks and Fire on the Falls festivities went off without arrests. The attendees were well behaved and we thank all that attended.

TOWN CLERK: Submitted by Joseph Kaplan

TOWN MEETING of June 13, 2007

The minutes for the June 13 Continuous Town Meeting and the June 13 Special Town Meeting have been finalized. The Continuous Town Meeting was the Annual Spring Town Meeting which began on May 8, 2007.

VITAL RECORDS: In the month of July we have recorded with the Secretary of State 11 Birth Certificates, 8 Marriage Certificates, 11 Death Certificates. On the 10th of each month a state report is required regarding the number of births, marriages, and deaths that have been processed by the Town Clerk's Office. 61 certified copies of birth, 23 certified copies of marriage, 38 copies of death. Please note: I previously reported that we issued 27 certified copies of birth in June 2007. We actually issued 69 certified copies of birth in June 2007.

REQUESTS/CERTIFICATES/LICENSES ISSUED: 14 Business Certificates, 9 Couples filed new Marriage Intentions, 20 Dog Licenses, 1 Kennel License, 1 Raffle Permit, 1 Fuel Storage Registration

OTHER ITEMS: 37 Street List Books, 18 Notarizations Performed

TURNOVERS: Our office handles the dog licenses as well as processing the funds collected for the licenses, late fees, and fines by the Animal Control Officer. Total amount of funds turned over to the Treasurer's/Collector's Office for the month of July was \$1,806.80

VOTER REGISTRATION: We processed 25 voter registration applications in the month of July. The state voter registration forms are multi-purpose; they may be used to register to vote, change party affiliation of currently-registered voters, or notifying the registrars of a change of name or Uxbridge address. Fourteen (14) people were removed from the voter registration roles. Voters are removed when we receive notice that they moved or have passed away. Voter may also request that their names be removed from the registration roster.

PUBLIC OUTREACH: I visited the State House to meet with Uxbridge's Legislative delegation: Senator Richard Moore and Representatives Jennifer Callahan and Paul Kujawski. I had individual meetings with each of the legislators. We discussed voter registration legislation, services offered by the Town Clerk's Office, and

public outreach efforts. The legislators will keep our office informed on any proposed legislation regarding elections, vitals, or any other matter relating to this office.

CUSTOMER SERVICE: Research, which entails 20 – 25 hours per month, Genealogy, swearing in of committee members, new police officers, and public officials

STAFF: Emily Kate Armstrong, who will be a freshman at Coyle Cunningham School in Taunton this autumn, began community service work for academic requirements this month. She will be with us through the end of August. Emily is helping us with filing and other office tasks.

BOARD OF REGISTRARS: The Board meeting originally scheduled for Wednesday, July 25 was cancelled due to the Bernat Mill Fire.

DOG LICENSES: I met with the Police Chief and Animal Control Officer regarding the dog licensing process. We will begin reviewing forms used by other municipalities in the Commonwealth.